RG104 E-1 Box 136 Oct-Dec 1885

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

Oct. 12, 1885.

Hon. Dan'l M. Fox
Superintendent

Sir:

The undersigned, designated by you to take under consideration and report measures for the increase of security and efficiency in the Mint, respectfully submit the following recommendations and suggestions:

1. – That in order to elevate the standard and preserve the morale of the force employed, all clerks and assistants, foremen and others in the operative departments, should be required to give a sufficient surety for the faithful performance of their duties, to the Superintendent, and to the operative officers, respectively.

2. – That the surety furnished by corporations recognized and authorized by law seems to us to have an advantage over personal suretyship; inasmuch as the corporation has a fixed capital, is under the eye of the State officials appointed to

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examine and report upon Corporate standing, and deals with suretyship as a matter of business.

There can be little doubt that being required to enter surety for the faithful performance of duty will have the effect to render men employed more circumspect, because more conscious of responsibility. This would protect the institution against unworthy and dangerous persons, because such persons could not induce an insurance Company to take any risk on their standing or deserving. The direct effect of requiring bonds of such employees would be to elevate the standard of official character.

Finally, justice to the Superintendent, and to the operative Officers, seems to require that he and they shall have something more than the ordinary vouchers for character from their clerks and assistants.

Very Respectfully

Jacob B. Eckfeldt

Assayer

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 136

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M.H. Cobb
Cash.